## ABSTRACT

## A METHOD OF DETECTING A PRINTABLE SURFACE

A method of processing postal articles in which a physical magnitude is measured in order to detect (2) whether the outside surface of a postal article is made of a plastics material, and in which a digital image of said outside surface of the postal article is processed in order to detect (3) whether said surface has a noisy background. On the basis of the results of these two detection operations, it is determined (4) whether the outside surface of said postal article is a printable surface or a non-printable surface.

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